

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 INR-07  
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8361  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, TH, OVIP (DERIAN, P)  
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER UPPADIT, JANUARY 16, 11978

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN AND FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT EXCHANGED VIEWS DURING CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS PRECEDING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JANUARY 16. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OAKLEY AND SIEVERTS AND AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE ALSO TOOK PART IN THE TALKS.
2. FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT WELCOMED MS. DERIAN TO THAILAND AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HER VISIT WOULD BE BOTH PLEASANT AND PROFITABLE. UPPADIT ASSURED MS. DERIAN THAT THE TRADITION OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE BUDDHIST ORIENTATION OF THAI SOCIETY.
3. MS. DERIAN SAID THAT SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS A BASIC TENET OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND POINTED TO A GROWING AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SHE NOTED THAT, TODAY, A NATION'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE IS IN LARGE MEASURE RELATED TO ITS OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ITS

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CITIZENS. MS. DERIAN SAID THE U.S. IS ENCOURAGED BY SIGNS THAT THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT IS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF A FREER, MORE OPEN SOCIETY, AS EVIDENCED BY GREATER PRESS FREEDOMS, AND TOWARD GRANTING A LARGER MEASURE OF POLITICAL RIGHTS TO ITS CITIZENS THROUGH PROPOSED ELECTIONS. MS. DERIAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THAILAND WILL MOVE AWAY FROM RELIANCE ON MARTIAL LAW AND

TOWARD A GREATER EMPHASIS ON CIVILIAN DUE PROCESS AND OBSERVANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW.

4. DISCUSSIONS THEN TURNED TO INDOCHINA REFUGEES. MS. DERIAN PRAISED THE RTG'S PAST PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO REFUGEES AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE FOR A TRAGIC INCIDENT, SUCH AS THE DROWNING OF "BOAT REFUGEES," TO MAR AN OTHERWISE POSITIVE HUMANITARIAN RECORD.

5. THE FONMIN SAID THAILAND WILL CONTINUE TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS HUMANITARIAN TRADITIONS BUT WANTED IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THE RTG HAS ONLY A LIMITED CAPABILITY TO HANDLE THE RANGE OF PROBLEMS POSED BY THE INFLUX OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. HE RE-EMPHASIZED THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS OF THE REFUGEE SITUATION AND ASKED THAT U.S. ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT REFUGEES FOR RE-SETTLEMENT. MS. DERIAN ASSURED HIM THE U.S. CONTINUES TO LOBBY THIRD COUNTRIES TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN ACCEPTING REFUGEES. MS. DERIAN POINTED OUT THAT SHE AND MR. SIEVERTS WILL CALL ON THE UNHCR IN GENEVA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR VISIT TO THAILAND TO DISCUSS WAYS TO GENERATE MORE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THE ISSUE OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES.

6. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE RAISED TWO SPECIFIC PROBLEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREAS WITH RESPECT TO VIETNAMESE BOAT CASES: 1) REPORTED FOOD SHORTAGES IN THE SONGKHLA CAMP AND 2) PERIODIC REPORTS OF BOATS BEING TURNED AWAY. THE FONMIN PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE ISSUES BUT SAID THE RTG HAD TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO ENCOURAGE REFUGEES TO ENTER THAILAND OR ELSE IT WOULD SOON BE INUNDATED. MR. OAKLEY ASKED UPPADIT TO CLARIFY THE RTG'S POLICY OF "NOT ENCOURAGING" REFUGEES. UPPADIT, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT, MFA, PHIRAPHONG KASEMSI, WHO WAS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE, SAID THAILAND OFFERS TEMPORARY ASYLUM AS WELL AS FOOD, WATER, AND OTHER PROVISIONS. MR. OAKLEY POINTED OUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TEMPORARY ASYLUM AND TURNING BOATS AWAY, AND SAID PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK HAS STATED IT IS THAI POLICY NOT RPT NOT TO TURN REFUGEE BOATS AWAY.

7. MS. DERIAN SOUGHT AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THAILAND IS CONTINUING TO ACCEPT BOAT CASE REFUGEES, DOES NOT INTEND TO CLOSE THE SONGKHLA BOAT CAMP WHEN THE PRESENT RESIDENTS ARE MOVED, AND THAT THE RTG WILL ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS TO COOPERATE IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT. MS. DERIAN THEN BRIEFED THE FON

MIN ON THE STATUS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSULTATIONS WITH  
KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO DRAFTING LEGISLA-  
TION WHICH WOULD OFFER A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO  
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT. THE DISCUSSIONS CONCLUDED WITH  
MS. DERIAN REAFFIRMING U.S. DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE  
TO SEEK ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS TO INDOCHINESE REFUGEE  
PROBLEMS.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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